

DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2009

The NOAA/Northern Gulf Institute Diversity Internship Program provides career exploration opportunities in all forms of coastal science data management, data stewardship for fisheries, socio-economic and ecosystem data management including metadata development. NGI researchers, NOAA scientists and subject matter experts from National Coastal Data Development Center serve as mentors and coordinate intern assignments. NCDDC Metadata trainers support the interns in the development of accurate metadata records for geospatial project data. This paid internship is open to eligible undergraduate and graduate students targeting populations underrepresented in NOAA, with an emphasis on those from diverse communities. Students from all disciplines are welcome to apply for this competitive internship, and social science majors are strongly encouraged to participate.



FEATURED STUDENTS



Matilda Asuzu
Louisiana Sea Grant, Baton Rouge, LA

Ms. Asuzu was assigned to the communication office of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. She wrote press releases and articles for Louisiana Sea Grant's quarterly newsletter and researched wind energy farms in Louisiana. She was also a part of multi-media activities at Sea Grant, creating four podcasts to accompany the "I Am Louisiana Sea Grant" video and proofreading oral history transcriptions.



Kelly Henry
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Ms. Henry worked on her doctoral dissertation under the guidance of Northern Gulf Institute Research Fellow Dr. Robert Twilley at Louisiana State University. Her current research focuses on exploring the effects of black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) expansions on the nitrogen dynamics of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) marsh habitats in southern Louisiana. She completed a comprehensive elevation survey of her research sites in Port Fourchon, LA, confirming that black mangroves are growing at slightly higher elevations than smooth cordgrass marshes.



Onome Igboavodha,
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Jackson, MS

Ms. Igboavodha interned with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Data (MSDEQ) Integration Department. She completed a large metadata project on fecal coliform water assessment and developed detailed metadata records for 12 datasets dated 2001-2007. She also worked on a separate project dealing with related datasets for nutrient criteria development, where several water assessment project data sets were merged into one database.



Dominique Lazzar
National Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Miami, FL

Ms. Lazzar spent her summer researching the lionfish invasion along the East Coast of the United States. She collected and compiled articles relating to the lionfish invasion, the pathways of transfer of marine exotics to new locales, and possible means of eradication of marine invasive species. In addition, she met with scientists at the NOAA National Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, FL, and corresponded with the scientists at the NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research in Beaufort, NC.

Contact information:

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Rachel Nowlin, DISL Diversity Internship Coordinator

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